


University of Illinois

Thesis in Architecture

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

June 1. 1907 190

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE THESIS PREPARED UNDER MY SUPERVISION BY

Donald Graham

ENTITLED

A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

IS APPROVED BY ME AS FULFILLING THIS PART OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE

DEGREE OF

Bachelor of Science in Architecture

John W. Dease

Instructor in Charge.

APPROVED:

N. Clifford Rickard

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF Architecture

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The following is an extract from the "Handbuch der Architektur as constituting the requirements of a Chamber of Commerce.

The architectural programme for a Bourse (Stock Exchange) has first to determine the requirements for rooms, and since Stock Exchanges differ greatly, and moreover, the number of persons visiting them being sometimes great and sometimes small, this cannot be fixed in a general way, but must be decided upon in each case. Besides the never omitted entrance rooms and communications, the following rooms are necessary:

1. The exchange hall, the principle room in the building, in which is carried on the exchange business proper; it forms the nucleus of the entire design.
2. The rooms attached to the hall, whose number and purpose vary much according to the nature and extent of the stock exchange in question. To these especially belong:
 - a. Rooms for the exchange agents (brokers).
 - b. Rooms for the clearing house.
 - c. Rooms for the officers of the exchange.
 - d. Rooms for printing and issuing the bulletins of prices.
3. The post office and rooms for telegraph and telephone service.
4. Rooms for the price bulletins, for reporters,

library, reading room, etc.

5. Entrance hall or vestibule with convenient clothes rooms in connection.

6. Buffets and restaurants with necessary additions (kitchens etc.).

7. Lavatories, water closets, etc.

8. Residence for official in charge, and rooms for one or more porters, and one or more servants.

The space requirments for a stock exchange on a grand scale are here given, keeping in mind also a similar design under b. The number of rooms is naturally reduced in the smaller stock exchanges.

This is a complete stock exchange, and in the accompanying design Nos. 6 and 8 are eliminated as being inessential in a modern American Chamber of Commerce.

In a Chamber of Commerce, the main space, and that which forms the center or neucleus of the design is the large hall which in this case is adequate for the accommodation of the maximum number of persons, and of such a form as to give direct communication to the rooms. Opening from this is a large vestibule cross vaulted and terminating at its intersection with the two side corridors. Opening from these side corridors are the smaller rooms and offices accessory to such a building. On one side are the offices of the president, Vice president, secretary, treasurer, inspector, also a large committee room, in the rear, and director's room in front. On the other side and symetrically placed with these rooms

are library, smoking room, reporter's room, telegraph and telephone rooms, clerk's office and small clearing house. On both sides are two stairways and a toilet room. In the rear are two entrances from street into the ends of the side corridors. From these vestibules open the board rooms through small ante rooms on both sides. In front of these rooms is a vaulted corridor separating it from the large hall.

On each of the four corners of the large hall is a pair of elevators and a coat room. The side corridors are barrel vaulted with penetrations, as indicated by the floor mosaics in the plan.

In the design of a chamber of commerce for a city of 500,000 inhabitants the division of space for the various compartments does not follow set rules as is the fact in the design of many other public buildings. The erection of buildings for the sole purpose of commercial exchange as in this design has not become as common as in other classes of structures, but enough has been done that tolerably definite lines may be followed from previous buildings which have apparently been satisfactory.

In choosing the character of the design there were one of two considerations to be taken into account. First, whether the design should be entirely monumental in character, in which no confinements of space and position etc., were considered, and second, where the practical was the main element governing the design. In the design presented here, it has been the purpose to combine the two above considerations, that is,

to present a building monumental in character and practical at the same time. Consequently a plot of ground between party walls and fronting on two parallel streets was selected as one suited to this purpose as to matter of position and layout.

Under these conditions, the chief problem to be considered aside from the requirement of space is the problem of light and how it may be introduced into those rooms not fronting on either street. First of all is the exchange hall, a room in the center of the building, and not exposed to any outside wall. This is easily and very adequately done by the large sky-light in the roof of the coved ceiling. For the offices on the party wall sides, the building line is carried along almost its entire length, ten feet from the party line, and the building being only three stories high sufficient light is admitted to these offices on bright days, while on cloudy days electric lights will be necessary. The ventilation of these rooms will be taken care of by a large and adequate fan system.

As to arrangement, the plan has been studied so as to get the best and most desirable divisions of space and at the same time retain a character which is monumental. An effort was made to keep the design as nearly symmetrical as possible, both in plan and elevation. The large exchange hall has been made the predominant feature in the plan, and its extent is clearly indicated in elevation. Extending as it does through the entire height of the building and being well lighted, it affords excellent outlook to the office stories

above and acts in the capacity of a light court.

At the sides of the hall is an open arcade extending over nearly the entire length, giving ready access to the offices, while at the front is a direct connection to the entrance vestibule.

Access to the upper floor is well taken care of by stairways, one in each corner and near entrances, as well as four pairs of elevators in convenient places. This is sufficient to accommodate any crowd that would likely to be in the building. The main offices of the exchange have been placed on the main floor, as well as other rooms fully as necessary. The telephone and telegraph booths are near the big hall and convenient from it. Allowance has been made for sufficient space for director's room, committee rooms, toilet, library, smoking room and reporter's room which are very necessary to the modern exchange.

The two upper floors are occupied by offices of members of the exchange as it is desirable for a member to be near the hall at all times during business hours.

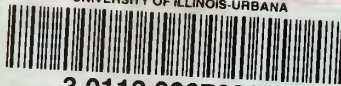
The design of the exterior is wholly consistent with the plan. As the large hall is the predominant feature in the plan so it has been made in elevation as indicated by the dome like roof in the center. The loggia in the center opens upon the gallery around the hall and is consequently a part of it. The pavillions at either side are used to terminate the central feature and being important they enclose rooms which are important in plan. The side

wings are the least important, and consequently least ornate in design and ornament, and simply indicate a string of side offices of lesser importance.

The style is distinctly modern French, and the ornament has been made consistant with the character of the building. The material will be chiseled Bedford lime-stone and marble on the exterior, and colored marble slabs on walls of the interior, and marble mosaic floors in the thoroughfares and public rooms. In the large hall will be six large lunettes with significant mural paintings and other features of decoration will be consistent with the nature of the building and its monumental character.

In rendering, the India Ink was selected on account of its particular likeness to the actual color and texture of Bedford Lime-stone and its shadow and shade effects.

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